

Notes on the Weather.—In San Jose, air pressure, temperature, and relative humidity have been quite close to the normal of the month; rainfall was rather in excess, and the same is also true of sunshine, on account of the predominance of clear skies during the morning hours; four days only were rainless, and a specially heavy shower fell on the 16th; total amount, 56 millimeters, of which 32 millimeters fell in two hours. On the Atlantic slope, rains were less abundant than during the preceding months on the coast belt, rather scarce along the foothills and in the Reventazon Valley, and excessive in the mountains of Sarapiquí and San Carlos.

Notes on earthquakes.—August 13, 1:48 p. m., slight tremor, NE-SW; intensity 1; duration, (?)

TABLE 3.—Rainfall at stations in Costa Rica, August, 1901.

Stations.	Amount.	No. rainy days.	Stations.	Amount.	No. rainy days.
	<i>Mm.</i>			<i>Mm.</i>	
1. Sipurlo (Talamanca).....	155	18	14. Juan Vinas.....	118	16
2. Boca Banano.....	253	14	15. Santiago.....	111	17
3. Limon *.....	.....	.....	16. Paraiso.....	218	20
4. Swamp Mouth *.....	.....	.....	17. Las Concavas.....	176	19
5. Zent *.....	.....	.....	18. Cartago.....	163	19
6. Gute Hoffnung.....	133	10	19. Tres Rios.....	290	22
7. Siquirres *.....	.....	.....	20. S. Francisco G.....	367	24
8. Guapiles.....	168	15	21. San Jose.....	342	27
9. Sarapiquí.....	450	26	22. La Verbena.....	313	27
10. San Carlos.....	440	20	23. Nuestro Amo.....	317	22
11. Las Lomas.....	141	7	24. Alajuela.....	318	16
12. Peralta.....	168	15	25. San Isidro Alajuela.....	533	22
13. Turrialba.....	.....	.....	

*Observations not received.

† July, 401 mm.;—30 days.

MEXICAN CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA.

Through the kind cooperation of Señor Manuel E. Pastrana, Director of the Central Meteorologic-Magnetic Observatory, the monthly summaries of Mexican data are now communicated in manuscript, in advance of their publication in the Boletín Mensual. An abstract, translated into English measures, is here given, in continuation of the similar tables published in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW since 1896. The barometric means are now reduced to standard gravity.

Mexican data for August, 1901.

Stations.	Altitude.	Mean barometer.	Temperature.			Relative humidity.	Precipitation.	Prevailing direction.	
			Max.	Min.	Mean.			Wind.	Cloud.
	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Inch.</i>	<i>° F.</i>	<i>° F.</i>	<i>° F.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Inch.</i>		
Chihuahua.....	4,689	25.28	86.0	68.0	74.5	66	.....	.....	.....
Colima.....	1,600	28.23	91.0	67.5	77.5	56	8.43	sw.	.....
Guanajuato.....	6,640	29.71	86.0	51.8	69.4	58	5.58	ene.	.....
Leon (Guanajuato).....	5,906	24.26	84.9	52.9	69.4	61	3.25	se.	.....
Linare (Nuevo Leon).....	1,188	28.61	97.7	68.0	81.9	73	1.97	s.	.....
Mazatlan.....	25	29.62	91.9	74.1	83.5	79	11.86	nw.	e.
Mexico (Obs. Cent.).....	7,473	28.02	77.0	50.9	62.2	69	2.91	nw.	sw.
Monterrey (Sem.).....	1,628	28.12	102.9	69.4	85.1	63	0.75	e.	.....
Morelia (Seminario).....	6,401	28.93	75.2	44.2	63.1	77	6.24	s.	e.
Pachuca.....	795	22.46	73.4	50.0	62.1	72	9.49	ne.	.....
Puebla (Col. Cat.).....	7,125	23.86	75.9	53.6	64.4	73	8.85	ese.	ssw.
Saltillo (Col. S. Juan).....	5,399	24.77	89.6	59.0	72.5	66	11.81	ne.	.....
S. Isidro (Hue de Gto).....	.....	.....	77.4	67.1	.....	.....	6.72	ne.	.....
Toluca.....	8,812	21.94	73.8	33.8	57.9	77	5.54	se.	.....

*Reduced to standard temperature and gravity.

THE ISLAND OF PORTO RICO.

By JOSEPH L. CLINE, Observer, U. S. Weather Bureau.

Porto Rico is within the Tropical West Indies, between latitudes 17° 50' and 18° 30' north, and longitudes 65° 30' and 67° 15' west from Greenwich. It lies east of Haiti, being separated from it by Mona Passage, and it is the smallest and easternmost island of the Greater Antilles. It was discovered by Columbus, November 16, 1493, during his second

voyage to the Western Hemisphere. He first sighted Cape Mala Pascua, and then sailed along the south and east coast to Aguada, where he landed November 19, and took possession of the island in the name of the reigning sovereigns of Spain and christened it San Juan Bautista, in honor of Saint John the Baptist, while its Indian name was Borinquen. For fourteen years after its discovery the island remained unexplored. Trading vessels stopped there occasionally, usually for water, but it was not until 1508 that Ponce de Leon made his landing from Santo Domingo and established a form of government other than that of the Indians; he founded the town of Caparra, about three miles inland from the bay of San Juan, in 1509, which was afterward named Puerto Rico, or Rich Gate, and transferred to the present site of San Juan. Subsequently the island and the city exchanged names, and the place where the first town was founded is now known as Pueblo Viejo, or old town. Porto Rico, owing to its location, practically controls the Virgin and Mona passages from the Atlantic Ocean into the Caribbean Sea, thus occupying a strategic position of much importance. Subsequent events show that this fact was recognized at an early date. Thus, in 1597, San Juan was blockaded and captured by Admiral George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, but an epidemic of yellow fever forced him to give up the island. Two years previous San Juan fell before the assaulting forces of the great English sea rover Sir Francis Drake. These defeats led to the completion of Moro Castle at the entrance of the harbor of San Juan. A Dutch fleet of 17 vessels attacked San Juan in September, 1625; they landed and besieged the city for twenty-eight days, but were finally forced to withdraw with considerable loss. The French attempted a landing in 1625 but were repulsed. Several minor and unsuccessful attempts to capture the island from Spain occurred between 1625 and 1797. From this latter date to the time of the American occupation of the island in 1898, Porto Rico was exempt from outside attack.

The island is roughly rectangular in shape; it is a little over 100 miles in length, with a breadth of about 36 miles, thus containing about 3,600 square miles. Its greatest length is from east to west. The topography is broken by an irregular range of low mountains and hills which traverse the island from east to west, a little to the south of its center, trending northeastward over the eastern portion, and culminating with the peak of El Yunque (The Anvil) near the northeast corner, which overlooks the island with an altitude of 3,609 feet. Elsewhere these mountains are from 2,000 to 3,000 feet high. This range forms the water divide of Porto Rico, and is known in different parts of the island by various names—Cordillera Central, Sierra de Cayey, and in the northeast Sierra de Luquilla. The contour slopes northward and southward from this range of mountains in broad undulations, and is broken with deep ravines and creeks, some of which become unfordable rivers for a few hours after the heavy tropical rains. The largest streams are the Rios Loiza, Bayamon, Morovis, Arecibo, and Blanco, all on the north side of the divide, and some of which are navigable with small boats for a short distance inland. Most of the interior has a steep hilly surface, gradually becoming more level as the coast is approached. The coast land is low and with few good harbors, that of San Juan being the best. The small islands of Vieques and Culebra lay to the eastward of Porto Rico; the Isla Mona is to the west in the Mona Passage, with a few other islets in its neighborhood, and these are all controlled by the same government.

The climate is not so oppressive as one might expect in the Tropics. A cool, very pleasant, and most welcome breeze generally blows across the island, particularly in the afternoon and at night, which adds much to the comfort of the inhabitants. Much cloudy weather prevails, with an occasional fog